

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 OES-03 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1064

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10450

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, GW, WB, UR

SUBJECT: FRG NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN USSR

REFS: (A) BONN 9647 (NOTAL); (B) MOSCOW 835L (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT HIS JUNE L2 MEETING IN BONN WITH NOVIKOV, FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT STRESSED THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND PRESSED FOR INFORMATION ON SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE POLES AND EAST GERMANS ON ROUTING THE POWER LINE THROUGH WEST BERLIN. NOVIKOV MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG BONN GROUP REP (LUECKING) HAS BRIEFED THE THREE ALLIES ON THE SCHMIDT-NOVIKOV DISCUSSION OF THE NUCLEAR
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PROJECT, HELD AFTER THE JUNE 9-11 MEETING OF THE FRG-USSR JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION. STRESSING CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORT, LUECKING READ FROM WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A MEMO FROM

SCHMIDT TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

2. SCHMIDT TOLD NOVIKOV THAT BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN AS WELL AS OFFICIALS OF THE FRG WERE CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE PRESTIGE OF BOTH SIDES IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO REALIZE QUICKLY A COMMON PROJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. BUT IF IT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY TO TELL THE PRESS THAT OVER SEVERAL MONTHS THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE FIELD OF BUILDING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, HE WOULD BE QUITE FRANK. THIS WOULD BE HIGHLY DISAGREEABLE, NOT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC BUT ALSO FOR FOREIGN POLICY REASONS. THE CHANCELLOR CONTINUED THAT THE FRG HAD "SPECTACULAR INTEREST" IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR STATION AND THAT THE PROJECT HAD SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. SCHMIDT RECALLED THAT WHEN HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROJECT WITH KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV EIGHT MONTHS AGO, THE SOVIET LEADERS HAD REALIZED THAT CERTAIN DETAILS REMAINED TO BE DISCUSSED WITH POLAND AND THE GDR. THEY HAD SAID THEY INTENDED TO DO SO, AND KOSYGIN HAD SAID HE WOULD THEN ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THE CHANCELLOR. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS WITH POLAND AND THE GDR HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE FRG. THE CHANCELLOR ADDED THAT HE CONTINUED TO EXPECT NEWS ABOUT THE MATTER. HE COMPLAINED THAT, IN HIS DISCUSSIONS EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH, NOVikov HAD SYSTEMATICALLY AVOIDED DISCUSSING THE ISSUE BUT INSTEAD HAD INSISTED ON DEALING WITH QUESTIONS OF COST, PRICES, INTEREST RATES, ETC.

4. SCHMIDT TOLD NOVIKOV HE DID NOT THINK IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS PROJECT AND SAID HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF NOVIKOV WOULD TELL KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV WHAT HE HAD JUST SAID. HE STRESSED ONCE MORE THAT HIS INTEREST WAS NOT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC BUT FOR FOREIGN
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POLICY REASONS.

5. NOVIKOV SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THE MESSAGE BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REPLY.

6. COMMENT: AT CONCLUSION OF ABOVE PRESENTATION, LUECKING COMMENTED THAT ALLIED REPS COULD SEE FROM CHANCELLOR'S APPROACH THAT HE WAS QUITE ANGRY AT LACK OF SOVIET FOLLOW-THROUGH ON ROUTING OF THE POWER LINE.
HILLENBRAND

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